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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 September 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 1 to 8 September 2000 they carried out 278 sorties, 174 of them from Saudi Arabia, 88 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey.

The Minister urges the Security Council to meet its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and with the countries participating in this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 278 sorties in the period from 1 to 8 September 2000, 174 of them from Saudi Arabia, 88 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 16 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

At 1110 hours on 1 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 262 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1055 hours on 1 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Amarah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Samawah, Nasiriyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1600 hours on 2 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Hayy, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Rifa'i, Lasaf, Shatrah and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1730 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1505 hours on 4 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Basrah, Samawah, Jalibah and Salman areas.

Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2350 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0815 hours on 5 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 missions, 28 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah South, Taqtaqanah, Salman, Jalibah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1935 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1305 hours on 6 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 30 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Ashbajah, Salman, Najaf, Rifa'i, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Artawi and Nukhayb East areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1710 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0748 hours on 7 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 50 missions, 34 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Samawah, Afak, Qurnah, Basrah, Jalibah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0725 hours on 8 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 66 missions, 46 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Lasaf, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Mishkhab, Diwaniyah, Shatrah, Taqtaqanah, Ashbajah, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Nukhayb, Najaf, Nu'maniyah, Hayy, Afak, Ukhaydir and Karbala' South areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to perform its assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Letter dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 27 April and 25 August 2000, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Iranian violations of the ceasefire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 27 April-25 August 2000

1. 27 April 2000

A group of three Iraqi boatmen fishing inside Iraqi territorial waters near Mina' al-Amiq in Basrah Governorate was attacked by a boat being used for an Iranian patrol and carrying a number of armed soldiers. They forced the fishermen to leave their boat and board a nearby Iranian fishing boat. The Iranian patrol then seized the boat and abducted its owner, Abbas Ali Muhammad Fadl al-Mayyahi.

2. 29 April 2000

Six Iraqi boatmen were fishing in the area indicated in paragraph 1 above when they were approached by an Iranian patrol boat carrying five armed soldiers. They abducted the master, Husayn Dahi Sa'dun, and took him off towards Iran.

3. 2 May 2000

An Iranian patrol boat abducted four Iraqi fishermen in the area previously indicated and took them off towards Iran.

4. 2 May 2000

In April 1999 an Iranian patrol boat carrying six armed men intercepted the Iraqi fisherman Jasim Muhammad Abbas Ghali al-Sa'd in the Ra's al-Bishah area where he was fishing together with a person known as Mahdi. They were taken over to the Iranian side and the first named was interrogated by the Iranian authorities concerning the reason for this infraction. They accused him of spying for Iraq and of helping the Iranian Mujahidin-i Khalq organization to cross to the Iranian side. He was handed over to the Iranian courts and was sentenced to pay a fine of 600,000 rials. Because he did not have that sum, the judge altered the sentence to one years' imprisonment. At 1930 hours on 2 May 2000 he was released and returned to Iraq by boat across the Shatt al-Arab.

5. 20 May 2000

The Iranians seized two Iraqi fishing boats and their crews, totalling eight persons, near Mina' al-Amiq in the Karin area. They were released on 19 July 2000.

6. 24 May 2000

The Iranians detained the boat owner Mal Allah Nasir Jabr Khayr Allah and nine boatmen from Iraqi fishing boat No. 277/Basrah as they were fishing inside Iraqi territorial waters at Mina' al-Amiq and held them for more than 30 days, that is to say from 24 May to 28 June 2000.

7. 27 May 2000

At 2100 hours the Iranians fired 12 mortar rounds at a point two kilometres in front of Iraq's Tariq post at coordinates 3048 (1:100,000 map of Shaykh Sa'd).

8. 7 June 2000

Iranian patrols fired a number of shots towards the Iraqi side. Talib Abd al-Majid Ibrahim Abd Allah al-Khalidi, who was at work at the old anchorage, was wounded in the left forearm.

9. 23 June 2000

At 2030 hours the Iranians fired several rounds towards the Iraqi side. A 10-year-old child, Ali Abd al-Amir Abbud, was hit in the right shoulder by one round as he was sitting in the doorway of his home in Faw.

10. 24 June 2000

At 2000 hours the positions opposite the Faw area began to fire indiscriminately and intermittently using light weapons and also let off a number of bursts of machine-gun fire. The firing stopped at 0600 hours on 25 June.

11. 28 June 2000

At 1030 hours a khaki-coloured helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear and landing opposite Iran's Mayan Tanak post at coordinates 4057 (1:100,000 map of Mandali). Eight persons alighted from it, two of them in civilian dress and the others in military uniform, and inspected the post. At 1100 hours they and the helicopter returned to the Iranian rear.

12. 28 June 2000

At 1000 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear and landing at coordinates 6627 (1:100,000 map of Mandali). At the same time, three Iranian vehicles, a Land Cruiser and two khaki-coloured pick-up trucks, were seen heading towards the place the helicopter had landed. At 1100 hours, the helicopter returned to the Iranian rear.

13. 29 June 2000

At 2000 hours the positions along the Iranian shore opposite the Fada'iyah area opened indiscriminate and intermittent light-weapons fire. The firing stopped at 0500 hours on 30 June.

14. 1 July 2000

At 1200 hours the Iranians launched six motorless fibreglass boats of miscellaneous colours from the launch belonging to Iranian intelligence and three patrol boats. At 1900 hours a small metal pontoon was installed in the Khosrowabad area at coordinates 502382 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The boats were moored alongside and motors were mounted on them.

15. 2 July 2000

At 1000 hours two blue boats were seen patrolling in the Khosrowabad area of the Muhammarah district. One of them had a 200-horsepower Yamaha motor and was carrying six persons, and the other had two 175-horsepower motors and was carrying four persons, all of them in military uniform. At 1100 hours the two boats returned with two persons on each, having put the others ashore at the Karun river.

16. 2 July 2000

At 1230 hours three boats each carrying three soldiers equipped with radio transmitters were seen off the Ma'amir area at coordinates 515315. At 1200 the boats returned towards Khosrowabad.

17. 5 July 2000

At 0930 hours a khaki-coloured helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear and then continuing its flight in a north-to-south direction along the border strip. At 0940 hours it was lost to sight in the Iranian rear.

18. 7 July 2000

At 2000 hours an Iranian patrol abducted three Iraqi fishermen in the area off Umm al-Rasas island. They were Ja'far Muhammad, Ghalib Hasan Illawsh and Ahmad Hasan Ali.

19. 8 July 2000

The Iranians abducted PFC Sa'd Nass and Muslim Jasib, a civilian, in the Shalamjah area.

20. 9 July 2000

At 1800 hours a blue Iranian patrol boat with a 55-horsepower Marina motor and with six persons on board was seen carrying sandbags and distributing them among the metal structures in the Shatt al-Arab from the area opposite Shahiniyah to Abadan. This activity then resumed from Abadan up to the area opposite the Ma'amir dock.

21. 11 July 2000

The Iranians launched three fibreglass patrol boats, each with two Yamaha motors, in the area under the Iranian intelligence services opposite Shahiniyah at coordinates 304608. The boats proceeded to carry out patrols on the Iranian side.

22. 11 July 2000

At 1600 hours an Iranian launch with 30 persons in civilian dress on board was seen coming from Muhammarah. The passengers were put ashore at the port of Abadan. During the passage the launch was accompanied by a black Iranian patrol boat with a 200-horsepower Yamaha motor.

23. 11 July 2000

Between 2000 hours and 0600 hours on 12 July frequent Iranian patrols were noted in the area between Abadan and Muhammarah. Five boats were used for each patrol, and each boat carried five persons in civilian dress.

24. 12 July 2000

The Iranians erected an antenna some 20 metres high at the Khosrawi post attached to their Khosrawi complex.

25. 13 July 2000

The Iranians erected another antenna of the same height at the old Khosrawi post. An antenna of the same type was erected some two months ago at Iran's Darb Najaf post.

26. 14 July 2000

At 1900 hours unusual movements were noticed by boats belonging to Iranian intelligence. Two fibreglass boats, one of them white with patches of green and mounting two 200-horsepower Yamaha motors and the other grey with one 200-horsepower Yamaha motor, were seen meeting off the Shayhan area and then manoeuvring in the area between Saybah and Shahiniyah. At 2000 hours the boats headed towards the Iranian intelligence centre.

27. 14 July 2000

At 1900 hours a fibreglass boat with a 48-horsepower Yamaha motor carrying six persons in civilian dress was seen. It was moving slowly and heading towards the Abadan area. At 1930 hours it returned to the intelligence centre opposite Shahiniyah at coordinates 30468 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

28. 17 July 2000

At 1800 hours an Iranian trailer-type vehicle was seen towing a caravan and then depositing it behind Iran's Tawus post at coordinates 5738 before returning to the Iranian rear.

29. 19 July 2000

At 1600 hours an Iranian engineering unit with a Poclain backhoe was seen at coordinates 5539. The unit is still at work.

30. 21 July 2000

At 1945 hours the Iranians fired three artillery rounds inside Iranian territory at Salbukh island opposite Shahinshahiyah near the Iranian reconnaissance units at coordinates 109624.

31. 26 July 2000

At 1000 hours an Iranian military helicopter was seen flying over Iranian territory opposite the Faris and Qutaybah posts in the Karmashiyah area of Jasan district. After a short time it returned to the Iranian rear. At 1300 hours the same helicopter was seen flying over Iranian territory and landing at the Iranian post opposite the Faris and Qutaybah posts. It then returned to the Iranian rear.

32. 26 July 2000

At 1000 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen flying over the border strip from the Darraji post towards Zurbatiyah. It continued its flight for a period of 10 minutes and then returned to the Iranian rear.

33. 26 July 2000

At 1000 hours two F-2 aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace at coordinates 6650 and flew at low altitude towards Shayb at coordinates 7020. They then returned to the Iranian rear.

34. 28 July 2000

At 1800 hours an Iranian Poclain backhoe, yellow in colour, was seen at Hajj Salbukh island opposite the Qat`ah area at coordinates 204614 carrying out drainage work on marshland. Work ended at 2300 hours.

35. 29 July 2000

At 1800 hours a blue Iranian patrol boat with a 55-horsepower Marina motor and with six persons on board was seen carrying sandbags and distributing them among the metal structures in the Shatt al-Arab from the area opposite Shahiniyah to Abadan. This activity then resumed from Abadan up to the area opposite the Ma`amir dock.

36. 31 July 2000

At 0930 hours the Iranians directed mortar fire at Iraqi national territory in the Shuhani area at coordinates 3082 (1:100,000 map of Tib).

37. 31 July 2000

At 0350 hours a number of light-weapons rounds and some 18 illumination flares were fired by the Iranians from the Shalamjah area in Shatt al-Arab district. The firing stopped at 0440 hours.

38. 2 August 2000

At 1000 hours a khaki-coloured Land Cruiser saloon arrived from the Iranian rear and came to a halt at Iran's Shah post opposite the Naft Khaneh area. Four persons alighted, including one wearing a turban and two officers. They reconnoitred the sector and pointed towards our border posts.

39. 2 August 2000

At 1000 hours the Iranians placed sandbags on the metal structures on the eastern shore of the Shatt al-Arab opposite the Qat'ah area at coordinates 283687 and 298660. Each of the positions was manned by three soldiers armed with GC rifles.

40. 3 August 2000

At 2230 hours an Iranian ambush unit was observed inside Iranian territory at coordinates 9374 (Kharnubiyah). It consisted of 20 soldiers positioned five metres apart. At 0330 hours on 4 August the unit returned to the Iranian rear.

41. 3 August 2000

At 1100 hours, on its completion, the Iranians manned their position at coordinates 570540 with some eight soldiers armed with light weapons. The engineering unit is still working in the area, using one Poclain.

42. 4 August 2000

At 0800 hours the Iranians proceeded to lay the foundations for a new building at coordinates 9274. Fifteen persons worked on it, and the structure was 1 metre high and 10 metres long.

43. 5 August 2000

At 0900 hours two Iranian military vehicles were seen. One was an ambulance and the other a pick-up truck carrying some 15 soldiers. They alighted at coordinates 9374 (Kharnubiyah) and deployed barbed wire there.

44. 12 August 2000

At 2300 hours the Iranians fired indiscriminately in the direction of the Shatt al-Arab opposite the Saybah area. One Iraqi fisherman was killed and another was wounded.

45. 12 August 2000

At 0730 hours the Iranian engineering unit began work beyond the Iranian burial ground at coordinates 9280. Five people were at work, and work stopped at 1900 hours.

46. 13 August 2000

At 0800 hours the engineering unit began work beyond the Iranian burial ground at coordinates 9280. Work stopped at 1900 hours.

47. 13 August 2000

At 0800 hours the Iranian engineering unit began work at coordinates 9374. Work stopped at 1900 hours.

48. 14 August 2000

At 0900 hours the Iranian engineering unit began work beyond the Iranian burial ground at coordinates 9280. There were five people at work, and work stopped at 1900 hours. The unit resumed work at 0730 hours on 15 August, with 15 persons working.

49. 14 August 2000

At 0900 hours the engineering unit began work at coordinates 9374. Seven persons were working, and work stopped at 1900 hours.

50. 15 August 2000

At 2300 hours the Iranians fired indiscriminately into the Shatt al-Arab opposite the Dawib area at coordinates 451491 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

51. 16 August 2000

At 1000 hours the Iranians pitched a 180-pound tent by the Shutayt river at coordinates 445513 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). It was occupied by five military personnel.

52. 16 August 2000

At 2130 hours a helicopter coming from Abadan port flew at low altitude along the eastern bank of the Shatt al-Arab, inside Iranian airspace, towards the area opposite Ziyadiyah. It then returned to Abadan port.

53. 16 August 2000

At 1830 hours the sounds of two explosions were heard coming from a point some 12 kilometres beyond the Iranian berm at Hajj Salbukh island. The Iranian positions opposite the Sayhan area at coordinates 313581 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) then opened fire indiscriminately for a period of 10 minutes.

54. 16 August 2000

At 1600 hours the Iranians were observed erecting a wire fence 1.5 metres high along their berm in the area opposite Wasiliyah between coordinates 420547 and 450505 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

55. 17 August 2000

At 0600 hours the Iranians fired a mortar round that impacted on the eastern side of the Shatt al-Arab opposite the Ziyadah area at coordinates 4245 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

56. 22 August 2000

At 1610 hours the Iranians fired four 120-mm mortar rounds at one of the abandoned army camps in the Zubaydat area of Maysan Governorate.

57. 22 August 2000

At 1800 hours the Iranians fired four 81-mm mortar rounds at our units at coordinates 8521 (1:100,000 map of Tib).

58. 22 August 2000

At 2030 hours Iranian forces bombarded the Shusharin border post with 10 81-mm mortar rounds.

59. 22 August 2000

At 2030 hours the Iranians fired four 81-mm mortar rounds at an Iraqi military fortification attached to the Hayshamah post in Wasit Governorate.

60. 25 August 2000

At 0830 hours an Iranian ship loaded with tires and two grey 7-metre naval craft were seen approaching from the sea and heading towards Muhammarah port. At 1330 hours the craft left the ship behind and headed into the Karun river. The ship and the two craft were also escorted by five Iranian patrol boats, which also entered the Karun river.